Conversion of Lalkuan and Kathgodam Rail Line

*337. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received memorandam from public as well as Members of Parliament for running a direct train from Delhi to Kathgodam (Haldwani) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the portion between Lalkuan and Kathgodam requirs to be converted into Broad gauge line;

(d) if so, what action Government have so far taken in this regard; and

(e) by when the conversion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Running of a direct B.G. train from Delhi to Kathgodam is not feasible because of change of gauge. Running a direct train by all metre gauge route will involve additional distance of 328 Km. and more fare due to which it will not at all be popular.

(c) to (e) Parallel B.G. line between Lalkuan and New Haldwani (near Kathgodam) is part of approved B.G. line project from Rampur to New Haldwani. The completion of the new B.G. line will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Direct Air India Flight from Calcutta to Jeddah

*338. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is not inclined to undertake direct flight from Calcutta to Jeddah for Haj pilgrims; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) and (b) Air India is prepared to operate direct flights between Calcutta and Jeddah, for the benefit of Haj pilgrims subject to viable traffic potential, availibility of capacity and mutual commercial arrangements with other airlines.

News Item Air India Probe into Stowaway Incident

*339 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'The Times of India' of the 22nd August, 1985 under the caption "Air India probe into stowaway incident";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the incident; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 17th August, 1985 two boys aged about 10 and 14—Irish Nationals got into Air India flight AI-111 of August 17 at London after passing throug U.K. immigration and other check points of British Airport Security. On landing at JFK Airport New York, they evaded the New York immigration and customs check points and came out of the